(b) During 2003-04 Rs. 5.14 lakh, 2004-05 Rs. 6.68 lakh, 2005-06 Rs. 2.66 lakh and 2006-07 (upto Dec. 06) Rs. 3.99 lakh.

(c) Hoshiarpur station has been nominated for development as Model station. Following works at the total estimated cost of Rs. 75.44 lakh have been planned to develop this station;

(i) Special repair to approach road of goods platform and station approaches.

(ii) Improvement to circulating area, waiting room, platform.

(iii) Provision of new pump house and tank.

(iv) Special repair of station building.

(v) Development of park in connection with beautification of circulating area.

(d) Does not arise.

Lengthening 3-tier sleeper coach compartments

2101. SHRI S.M. LAUAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to lengthen 3-tier sleeper coach compartments by 5 feet;

(b) if so, whether an extension of length would create technical and design problems;

(c) what steps Railways is taking to improve availability of passenger accommodation all over the country;

(d) what immediate steps would be taken to reduce the crowds and meet demand of passenger traffic; and

(e) the steps proposed to give priority to passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a design of a coach with higher height has been evolved and a prototype AC 3-tier coach has also been manufactured and subject to certification of this design, the carrying capacity in such coaches shall be enhanced.

(c) to (e) Railways introduce new trains, extend the run of the existing trains, increase the frequency of trains, augment the load of the trains and run special trains etc. to provide more passenger accommodation. In 2007-08, it has been proposed in the budget to introduce 43 pair new trains, extension of 23 pair trains, increase in frequency of 14 pair trains and augment the popular trains with about 800 coaches. All new trains will have a minimum of 6 general class coaches subject to operation feasibility.

Handling over of surplus land to RLDA

2102. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has taken decision to handover surplus land of 25 locations around the country to the newly constituted Rail Land Development Authority for commercial exploitation; and

(b) if so, what is the total estimated income to be earned by Railways from this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As yet, 13 sites have been entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority for commercial exploitation.

(b) Under the scheme, the developer will be selected through bidding process in transparent manner. It is not possible at present to ascertain the amount of realization from these sites.

Modernization of Railways

2103. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the modernization of Railways with the help of private players;

(b) if so, the areas identified by the Railways to create more revenue for the modernization plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide job security to workers in such private sector?